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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.american-samoa.gov>

Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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No More Reduction in Work Hours *Governor Togiola suspends reduction of work hours for all locally funded employees*

Some 2,580 employees of the American Samoa Government's Executive Branch whose paychecks are funded with local money will once again be taking home full 80-hour paychecks after Governor Togiola Tulafono suspended the reduction of hours.

The reduction in work hours has been in effect since February and deductions were based on the amount each person gets paid. The suspension went into effect beginning this week, which is also the start of the new pay period.

The reduction included all cabinet members, even the Governor and Lt. Governor.

According to Togiola, revenue

collection has increased and cost saving measures have been successful so far. "Due to increased actual revenue and savings realized from austerity measures, the reduction in hours for ASG employees funded with local monies shall be discontinued beginning May 29," he wrote in a May 26 memo to all government departments.

Togiola thanked all those affected for their patience and understanding during these past critical months.

He added that ASG is not yet clear of its financial woes. "Therefore, all other austerity measures including but not limited to suspension of non-essential hiring and travel, increments, promotions, gas vouchers, etc. shall remain in

effect.....Austerity measures will be relaxed or discontinued altogether as ASG's actual revenues increase."

Meanwhile, there are still 3 revenue measures submitted by the government that are yet to be approved by the Fono. The only revenue measure the Fono passed during the last regular session was the wage tax bill but the approval was for 2% and not the original proposed amount of 4%

The other three revenue bills include the increase in business license fees, a \$2,000 corporate franchise tax, and an increase in the excise tax for alcohol, beer, and cigarettes.

Tax Office continues to release tax refund checks

About 1,100 local taxpayers who filed their taxes on or before March 7 got their refund checks last week. The money disbursed for Batch #10 was \$591,569 for the Additional Child Tax Credit (ACTC), \$432,762 for local, and \$299,096 for the Making Work Pay Credit (MWPC).

So far this year, over 8,000 tax returns have been processed, with \$11.95 million for the ACTC, \$3.82 million for local, and \$1.62 million for the MWPC.

DOH gets over \$69K in funds from the federal government

The US Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has awarded \$69,044 to the local Department of Health through a Chronic Disease Control Cooperative Agreement Grant for Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems (BRFSS).

The money will assist DOH to maintain and expand:

- Specific surveillance using telephone and multimode survey, methodology of the behaviors of the general population that con-

tribute to the occurrence of and Public Health Surveillance prevention of chronic diseases and Program Office.

The collection, analysis, and dissemination of BRFSS data to State categorical programs for their use in assessing trends, directing program planning, evaluating programs, establishing program priorities, developing policy, and targeting relevant population groups. Congressman Faleomavaega Eni congratulates DOH for successfully securing the grant. "This program was originally designed to improve the delivery of health services and especially build capacity and data collection for preventative efforts," he said. "I am pleased to know that these funds will support these efforts in American Samoa."

The grant was awarded by the DHHS's Center for Disease Control

PUBLIC NOTICE

To all alcoholic beverage licensees

Be advised that the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Ta'ita'itama Prevent Underage Drinking Initiative and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

will be conducting compliance check activities in your area beginning December 2010 and continuing through December 2011.

Please remember that selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years old is illegal per American Samoa Code, Title 27, Chapter 05; Section 27.0531:

"No licensee may sell any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21."

American Samoa is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its people. Our priority issue is to combat and prevent underage drinking and the problems that arise from this illegal activity.

**For additional information, feel free to contact the
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws - EUDL Program at 633-1582.**

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: KSBS FM 92.1 Saturdays @ 7:30 a.m.

ASCC Land Grant Hosts Molecular Biology Workshop for High School Science Teachers



Ten high school science teachers recently completed a workshop on molecular biology techniques to improve their skills for mentoring American Samoa's young scientists. The workshop was hosted by the ASCC Land Grant Program and conducted by faculty from the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine. (L to R): Anita Sivakumar (Samoana HS), Ailua Mamea-Neufeldt (Tafuna HS), Kae Myriam Pusic (Univ. Hawaii), Aitulagi Tuiasosopo (Tafuna HS), Claire Bacus-DeWees (Nuuuli Voc Tech HS), Liliiolevao Fanene (Tafuna HS), Cecilia Tuionoula (South Pacific Academy), Dr. George Hui (Univ. Hawaii), Talosia Uperesa (Samoana HS), Murali Gopalan (Leone HS), and Batta Siatu'u (Samoana HS). Not pictured: Valasi Lam Yuen Apulu (Leone HS). (Courtesy Photo)

(ASCC Press Release) In recent decades, new technologies for studying the genetic foundations of life have transformed the biomedical sciences, resulting in numerous breakthroughs that have improved people's lives worldwide. Local high school students with an interest in science will now have a chance to try out some of these technologies through a program of

the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). On May 12, ten high school science teachers completed a five-day workshop on molecular biology techniques hosted by the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) Land Grant Program.

Conducted by Dr. George Hui and Ms. Kae Myriam Pusic of the University of Hawaii John A.

Burns School of Medicine, the workshop was sponsored by the NIH's Short-Term Education Program for Underrepresented Persons (STEP-UP) in conjunction with the American Samoa Department of Education, ASCC, and the University of Hawaii. The STEP-UP program seeks to increase the number of Pacific Islanders and other underrepresented minorities entering careers in biomedical research by providing opportunities for outstanding high school and college students to participate in scientific research.

The molecular biology workshop aimed to increase the capacity of local educators to mentor these students. Trainings took place on weekday evenings and all day on Saturday to avoid conflicts with the participants' teaching duties. Despite the long hours, all those involved remained enthusiastic and eager to learn. The teacher-mentors got hands-on experience with techniques such as DNA extraction, polymerase chain reaction, protein and DNA gel electrophoresis, and Western blots. Future workshops will build on this basic foundation. More information about the program is available at <http://stepup.niddk.nih.gov>.

THE FELETI BARSTOW PUBLIC LIBRARY

One World, Many Stories

Session #1 June 13 - July 18

- 6-1-11 Registration for Summer Reading Program and Computer Boot Camp *Summer Library Hours begin M-F 9am - 5pm and Sat. 10am - 2pm*
- 6-13-11 Computer Boot Camp begins: ages 12-14 @ 9am-11am (M-F)
- 6-14-11 Summer Reading Program begins: ages 5-12 @ 10am-12noon and 1pm

Session #2 July 11 - August 5

- 7-6-11 Registration for 2nd session CBC and SRP
- 7-11-11 Registration for 2nd session CBC and SRP
- 7-12-11 Summer Reading Program begins: ages 5-12 @ 10am-12 noon and 1pm

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On June 1, 1955, "a new Attorney General was appointed by the Governor [of American Samoa] to fill the position left vacant upon the resignation of the previous incumbent who has returned to private practice.....the appointment of the new Attorney General, who is a Samoan-born qualified lawyer and a member of the District of Columbia Bar, marked the first time that a major department in the Government of American Samoa was headed by a Samoan." [N.B. *Strangely, the report makes no mention of the new Attorney General's name: Peter Tali Coleman*].

On June 1, 1962, Western Samoa celebrated its independence (which was achieved on January 1, 1962) on this date, because of better weather. This practice continues today.

On June 1, 1986, two teams of archaeologists arrived in American Samoa to conduct archaeological surveys for the American Samoa Historic Preservation Office. One team, consisting of Dr. Patrick Vinton Kirch and Mr. Terry Lynn Hunt of the University of Washington, conducted a survey of the Manu'a Islands. The other team, comprised of Dr. Jeffrey Todd Clark of North Dakota State University and Mr. David Jerome Herdrich of the University of Illinois, investigated archaeological remains on the northeast coast of Tutuila.

On June 5, 1900, the American flag was raised on Ta'u, in the Manu'a Islands. Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant of the U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, attended the ceremony, reporting that "the natives were quite enthusiastic about hoisting the flag, and treated me with much courtesy."

On June 5, 1915, American Samoa's Governor, Commander John Martin Poyer, ended the prohibition on the sale of liquor.

On June 5, 1942, Captain John Gould Moyer relieved Captain Laurence Wild and took office as the 29th naval governor of American Samoa (until February 8, 1944).

On June 6, 1836, a permanent staff of six London Missionary Society missionaries and their wives arrived in Tutuila on the veteran missionary ship *Dunottar Castle*, which anchored in Leone Bay. "The first district committee meeting was held on deck and the workers distributed throughout the group. A.W. Murray and G. Barnden were assigned to Tutuila."

On June 6, 1938, Captain Edward William Hanson took office as American Samoa's 26th naval governor (until July 30, 1940).

On June 7, 1943, Captain Edwin Taylor Pollock, 14th naval governor of American Samoa (March 1, 1922--September 4, 1923), was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m., following funeral services "at the Church of the Covenant, 18th and N Streets, NW, Washington, D.C., with the Reverend Albert Joseph McCartney officiating." Pallbearers included retired Rear Admirals Horatio G. Gillmor, Harley H. Christy and John D. Beuret, retired Marine Corps Brigadier General Rufus Lane, and retired Navy Captains Adelbert Althouse and Chester C. Wells.

On June 8, 1867, Midshipman Benjamin Franklin Tilley (who would become American Samoa's first naval governor on February 17, 1900), graduated first in his class at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, and was commissioned as an Ensign with the serial number 103.

On June 8, 1922, the "Transportation Services of American Samoa" began. One bus ran from Pago Pago to Utulei to Leone. By 1927, the fare westward was 40 cents to Nu'uuli, 60 cents to Mapusaga and 75 cents to Leone. Eastward, the fare was 40 cents to Lau'i'i and 75 cents to Faga'itua.

TA'ITA'ITAMA & THE AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROUDLY HOSTS THE

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICAN SAMOA & GEAR UP AMERICAN SAMOA

2011 SUMMER ACADEMY

WHERE: ASCC Campus

WHEN: June 13 through July 1, 2011

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

HOW TO APPLY:

Limited slots available; First Come, First Served Basis. Priority Preference for Military Dependents

Applications can be picked up and returned to the following locations:

- **ASCC GEAR UP Office (Mapusaga)**
- **Dept. of Parks and Recreation (Tafuna Industrial Park)**
- **DHR WIA One Stop Resource Center (EOB Utulei)**
- **DHSS WIC Office (Pago Pago)**
- **DOH Community Health Centers (Tafuna, Leone, Amouli)**
- **Office of Veterans Affairs (Utulei)**
- **Or via email. Send request to taitaitama@gmail.com**

Completed applications must be returned with:

- **Copy of child's birth certificate**
- **Signed parent consent form**
- **Copy of parent's military ID, if applicable**

IMPORTANT NOTE:

All youth must have transportation to and from the ASCC Campus and they must have sport shoes to participate. For security purposes, all BGCAS participants must depart the ASCC campus by 11:00 a.m. everyday during the academy.

For more info: Call 633-1582 or email taitaitama@gmail.com

(Please see page 5 for complete Summer Schedule)

USDOJ allocates funds for American Samoa

The US Justice Department (USDOJ), Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) has allocated more than \$600K for American Samoa under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program.

is \$616,850. This is according to the distribution lists for states and territories. Applicants have up until July 14 to submit their grant applications for the FY 2011 JAG funding.

The JAG program provides states and units of local governments with critical funding necessary to support

a range of program areas including law enforcement, prosecution and court programs, prevention and education programs, corrections and community corrections, drug treatment and enforcement, crime victim and witness initiatives, and planning, evaluation, and technology.

The total allocation for the territory

BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICAN SAMOA & GEAR UP AMERICAN SAMOA

2011 SUMMER ACADEMY

SUMMER SCHEDULE:

For BGCAS Youth (Ages 10-14)

8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Math Trek
Graphic Arts
Robotics
Reading and Writing
Emergency First Aid
Music
Read Aloud

9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Basketball
Volleyball
Softball
Soccer
Music

For GUAS Cohort (Juniors)

9:30 to 12:00p.m.

Auto Desk
Math Trek
Pre-SAT
Reading and Writing
Marine Science
Agricultural Science
Robotics

“Promoting a College and Career Ready Future for American Samoa”

**SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG NEWSLETTER
“TAPUITEA”**

Contact: *Harry Stevens* (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or
Chanel Barber (chanel.barber@doit.as)



AMERICAN SAMOA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (AS-EPA)

Plastic Shopping Bags Ban

Plastic Free, The Way To Be...

Alternative Plastic Shopping Bag Approval Requirements

Only plastic shopping bags that have been specifically approved by AS-EPA can be distributed in American Samoa. AS-EPA requires the following information for approval of all alternative plastic shopping bags distributed in American Samoa.

1. Sample or specifications of the shopping bag to be distributed.
2. Name and contact information of the manufacturer and/or supplier.
3. Invoice from the shipment (when purchased for verification).
4. Provide documentation or certification that the shopping bag is made of a non-petroleum material or that it is compostable and certified as ASTM D6400 compliant.
5. Name and contact information of the business requesting approval.

AS-EPA will review the above information once it has all been received and then make a determination as to the proposed bags suitability under A.S.C.A. §25.2034.

**NO PLASTIC SHOPPING BAG MAY BE DISTRIBUTED UNTIL
AS-EPA APPROVAL IS GIVEN.**

Distribution of any alternative plastic shopping bags that have not been approved by AS-EPA are subject to citation under the new Plastic Shopping Bag Ban. For more information please stop by AS-EPA at Pago Plaza or call 633-2304.